THE LOGGER'S

B A R K

1916 - RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA - 2018

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A Brave experiment: Moving General Meeting to Daytime

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

DAVE W7UUU

Yes, you read the title correctly! And this is not the April 1st edition of my monthly column. During the past six months or so, the idea of moving our General Meeting from nighttime to daytime started rolling around in my head, and I began dropping "trial balloons" at meetings, asking longtime members what they thought of the idea. So many of us are getting older, and less fond of driving after dark especially on nights with inclement weather.

So at the January General Meeting where we all met the second time at The Eagles Club Aerie #3 in Tacoma (the first being in October), I tossed caution to the wind and during our presentation time I put it out for a show of hands. Of the some 40 or so in attendance, all but three raised their hands in support of a daytime meeting. I was actually astonished, and pleased at the same time. Maybe it wasn't such a hare-brained idea after all.

We recently learned that due to budgetary cutbacks, the Pierce County Library system will no longer be available to anyone for after-hours purposes. March will be our very last meeting at the Administrative Branch building, or any other Pierce County library facility. This change in our situation really started the dialog at board meetings to consider not just changing venue, but changing the time of our monthly general meeting. At the most recent meeting we discussed the idea again, and it was essentially unanimous that I present the idea to membership.

We have located a suitable location with a very reasonable rate that the Board feels is well in line with our budget, our needs for space, and location. It comes with presentation systems, plenty of chairs, and is centrally located.

So this further moved the discussion during the board meeting that we further consider moving the monthly general meeting to 1 PM on the first Saturday of the month, to align with the board meeting for the majority of months. And even on months that start after the first Wednesday, the BOD meeting and general meeting would be in the same 7-day period, a bonus for those on the board who travel for their jobs.

How would this change affect our Open House, which has traditionally been from 10:00 to 2:00 on every Saturday? In our discussion, we decided that for the first Saturday we'd simply change open house to be 10:00

to Noon, with the meeting commencing at the new location which is a relatively short drive from the Club-house, with very ample and easy parking for all who would attend. The hour of time between would allow for members, officers and presenters to move to the meeting location with plenty of time to spare.

For some perspective, what initially got me thinking about all of this was actually our Centennial of last year. Over and over I'd see that photo we've all seen, of 4 of the very first members, and founders of The Radio Club of Tacoma, way back in 1916. Service clubs and hobby clubs began forming in the latter half of the 19th century, and on into the first third of the 20th. If you think about life back then, as we understand it, a home was a very different place than it is now. There were far fewer things for folks to do in the evenings, and with burgeoning new pursuits such as amateur radio, general aviation, and the notion of providing community service through the body of a club, a demand was created to get people out of the house more often, in the evenings after the work day was over.

The Radio Club of Tacoma is no exception. Radio was the internet of the early 20th century, no question. It drew in the young technical people – all wanting to learn about and share ideas about this new medium that could connect people from around the region, the country, and ultimately, the world. It was a heady era of emerging technologies across many fields, new ideas, and free-enterprise efforts to capture market share from all of those who participated. Radio, aviation, and even fly-fishing clubs sprang up like daffodils in spring to bring people together for a shared interest, a desire to learn more, and to spend time with like-minded individuals. And it was almost entirely done in the evening, as an escape from the hum-drum of home life for many.

We now live in a different era – we're far more drawn to our homes than we were then. We have cable TV, the internet, video games, warm houses with electric lights and creature comforts that just weren't around at the turn of the 20th century. And as a club, we are all aging. Without doing a full demographic analysis, I'd estimate our median age to be well over 60. And at the higher age points we have members who simply no longer attend the general meeting, at least during the long winter months. And even myself, at only 56, find that my drive in from Port Orchard at night is simply no fun at all. Night driving for so many of us has changed, and that draw to simply stay home with all the comforts and technologies is indeed powerful some nights.

During the next general meeting (March), our last one at the Pierce County Administration Building, I will be taking more ad-hoc votes via show-of-hands. It was agreed at the board meeting that those who most typically attend the general meeting should absolutely have a say, even if by simple vote. In fact, since the beginning when I first broached the topic, I have insisted on it. A decision such as this need to be by a majority vote of those who actually attend the meetings.

I want to be on record that I take full responsibility as your President for initiating this proposal. It will either stand or fail, but either way it will be on my shoulders. But I truly hope you will all consider this change as the positive move into the modern era for our organization that I consider it to be.

We'll see you at the next general meeting in March, as our final meeting at the Library building.

Dave, W7UUU

Mike & Key HAMFEST Saturday, March 10, 2018

Announcing the upcoming Mike & Key ARC HAMFEST in Puyallup, WA. This year's event is Saturday, March 10, 2018. Parking is FREE. Ticket sales start at 0800 at the Gold Gate. Gates open at 0900. This is an ARRL sanctioned event. Additional details such as maps, lodging, and VE exams can be found at http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm The Mike & Key Electronics Show & Flea Market is one of the largest annual Amateur Radio events in the Pacific Northwest. It is held on the Washington State Fairgrounds during the first part of March, up to 3,000 Hams and non-Hams alike are drawn to a modern 40,000 square foot facility located on two floors of the Exhibition Hall with room for over 300 tables selling radios, computers, and general electronics equipment and parts. Lots of radio and computer related items are available for sale and/or trade.

There is an on-site snack bar and a 'Country Store' consignment area.

License examinations will be given on-site.

V.E. Exam Sessions information:

- Date: Saturday, 10-Mar-2018 - Note: Schedule may be revised as event approaches.
- Times: One session, Registration starts 10:00 AM.
- Limit of 35-40 examinees per session. First Come First Served. Please line up along the wall outside the State Patrol building.
- Location: Puyallup Fair Grounds, Washington State Patrol Bldg, 1st floor, next to flea market building.
- Fee: $15 (covers 1 try at each exam element), No retests for failed elements within the same session. You do not need to pay for a flea market ticket if you are not attending the flea market. Just enter at the Gold Gate and say you are heading to the VE exams.

Government Issued Photo ID Required. (Children should be accompanied by parent with ID.) If you are upgrading your existing license you need to bring your original signed license document. If you are applying CSCE credit, you will need to bring the original CSCE document.

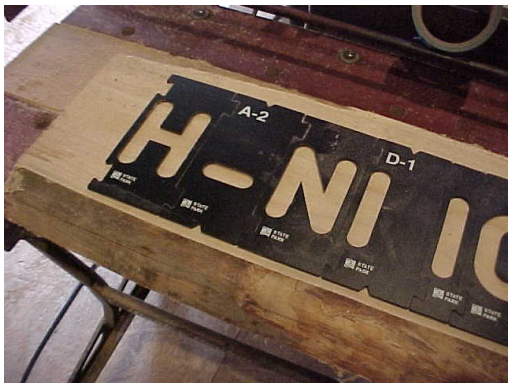
Examinees (and parents of child examinees) need to be aware that two of the forms that are submitted to the ARRL VEC and entered in the FCC database has the examinees FCC Registration Number (FRN) or social security number. So bring either of those with you. Current license holders can use the FRN number shown on their license. Examinees without an FRN can preregister at https://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do to get one.

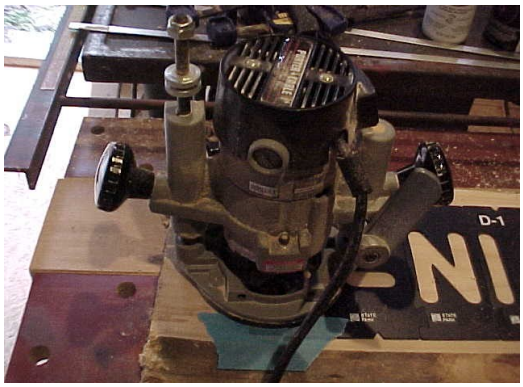
Email ag7t@arrl.net with questions about the VE Exam

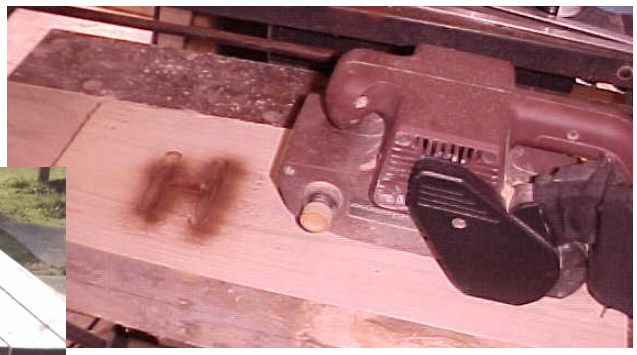
The Radio Club of Tacoma will have an information table disseminating club information and literature. There will also be a club table with equipment and other goodies for sale. Several RCT members will have their own tables with gently used amateur gear for sale. **Stop by and chat and perhaps find that long sought item you 'can't live without'.**

SANTA'S SIGNSHOP or How Bob Heselberg K7MXE works his wood magic.

You've all seen Bob's work and probably not paid much attention to it. The Radio Club of Tacoma enjoys a number of examples of Bob's creativity and handiwork. Two attractive and very sturdy picnic tables grace the backyard and have served well for all manner of sit-downs. In addition there are handmade wooden signs between the house and garage marking the handicapped parking spaces and several decorative Callsign signs







throughout the clubhouse.
In his own words;

"First you have to have several tools including a plunge router and a set of sign making letter stencils. I use some called State Park, available on ebay. For these pictures I used the letter H on a piece of scrap fir lumber. Each letter is held in place by tape and in this case it was like 26 degrees so the tape did not stick well. After routing the letter I fill it in with spray paint. I have found that automotive primer paint seems to work the best. A little sanding with a belt sander and it is ready to go. The Handicap signs were made from free firewood found in the Grey Lumber Company's free firewood dumpster."

Bob K7MXE

Thanks for all the hard work Bob.

EDITOR'S PLEA;

There are a number of members who constantly assist the club and volunteer for all those little chores that have to be done but nobody thinks to do. There are also volunteers that lend their backs and expertise to larger efforts. If you are one of these or know one of these unsung members step up and or point out these people so they can be recognized and applauded for their efforts. Thanks to all you guys.

P. J. H., N7PH hickspj467@comcast.net

Broadband Traveling Wave Antenna

by David Andresen W7HTJ

Once in a while you come across an antenna idea that is almost too good to be true. Just imagine an antenna that works well on all HF bands, 160 through 10 meters with an SWR of less than 2:1 over the entire range. Moreover, it is simple, does not need to be high in the air, and it is made entirely of a few strands of wire.

In 1995 I ran across an article for such an antenna in QST. It was dubbed the "Broadband Transmitting Wire Antennas for 160 through 10 Meters." like any red-blooded ham radio operator I was skeptical but had to give it a try.

I built versions of the antenna in the summer of 1996, again in the summer of 2013, and yet again in 2017. The illustration shows the design. The antenna's main attraction is the advertised flat SWR from 1.8 to 30 Mhz. Who could argue with that? In general I tried to make the vertical portions of the antenna 20-30 feet tall and the horizontal portion 60-70 feet long. The dimensions are not at all critical, as the antenna's operation does not depend on it being resonant. The size can be adjusted to fit your property. Just try to keep the vertical elements 20 feet long or longer and the horizontal element 30 feet long or longer. The antenna can be made too small (less efficiency) or too large (too narrowly directional).

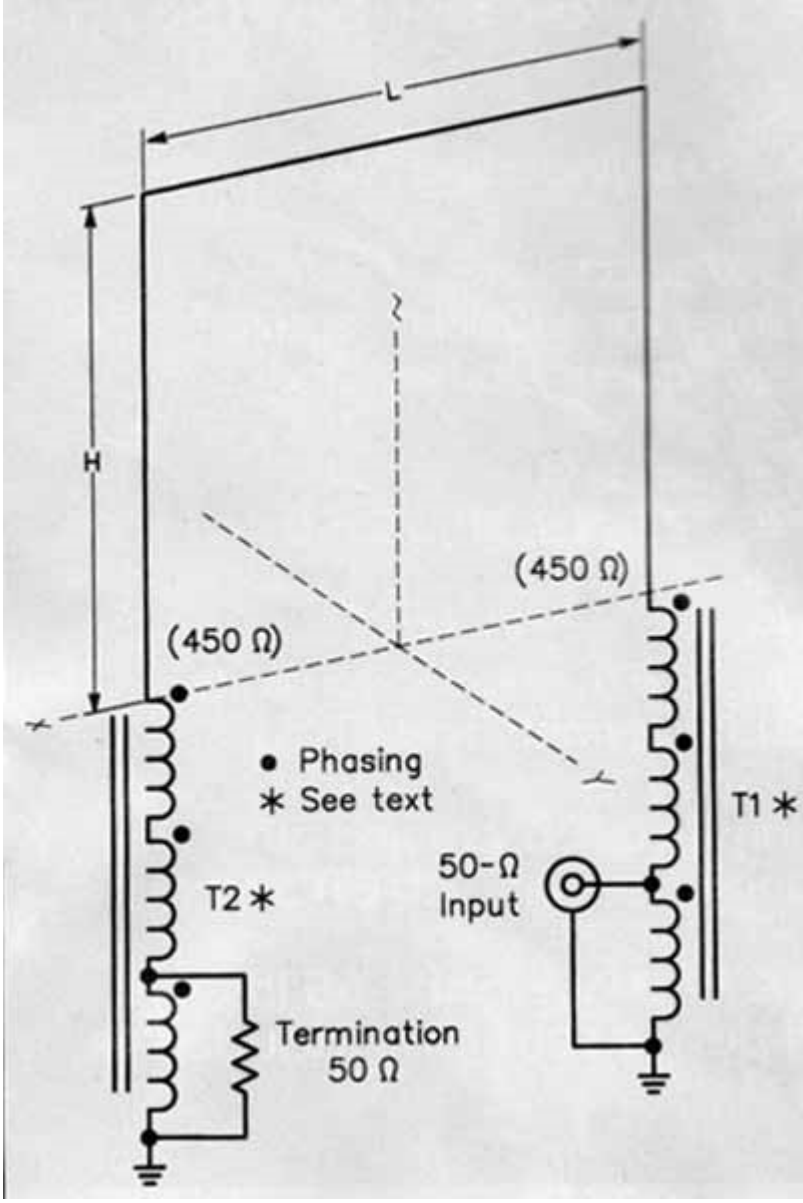
In my case, the vertical elements come almost all the way to the ground and the transformers are mounted on the ground rods. I purchased the 50:450 (i.e., 9:1) transformers, although do-it-yourself is certainly an option. For the 50-ohm termination I used an old dummy load. Note that there is a ground rod at each end of the antenna. I used 8-foot ground rods. Driving them into my rocky soil was the hardest part of building the antenna.

How well does it work? Well...the SWR indeed is flat as advertised, varying from 1.1:1 to 1.5:1 from 1.8 Mhz to 30 Mhz. No antenna tuner of any type is required or needed -- just plug the coax into your transmitter! It is very handy to be able to change from 10 to 160 meters without having to touch an antenna switch or tuner. And, importantly, there is no RF in the ham shack as is often found when random antenna wire lengths are used. I can easily make stateside contacts and I have talked with many, many DX stations while running 10 to 400 watts on CW, SSB, and digital. The antenna has proven to be a consistent performer, with very good and repeatable results on 20 meters and up. Its efficiency begins to suffer noticeably on 30 meters and below. However, having said that, I have made an SSB contact into Japan on 75 meters with good reports both ways. Go figure! It also well works on 160 for local contacts (West Coast). Overall, I would say the antenna has proven to be a good general purpose all-band performer.

One other construction note: P.J. (N7PH) reports that he built a version of the antenna with one end near a metal pole building. The result was a high SWR, making the antenna useless. My own versions of the antenna have been in the clear.

A full technical description with construction details can be found on the Internet by searching under the phrase "Broadband Transmitting Wire Antennas for 160 through 10 Meters." The article may make the antenna seem difficult to set up; however, it really quite simple.

Source: "Broadband Transmitting Wire Antennas for 160 through 10 Meters." Floyd F. Koontz (WA2WVL). QST, November 1995, pages 22-24.



Explanation of drawing;

L = random length 60' to 70' long

H = 20' to 30' supported as appropriate

T1 and T2 = 9:1 transformers (baluns)

Input = 50 ohm coaxial cable

Termination = 50 ohm 'dummy load' capable of handling the power fed to the antenna

The direction of best TxRx is off the end of the antenna away from the feed point end.

Where it notes *See text refers to information at the website noted in the article above.

Editor's comment;

My only support for my version of this antenna was the eves of a metal pole building (only 10 ft. high) and my house in way of the gutters (apx. 10 ft. high). I was able to only get a consistent SWR of 3:1 to 3.5:1 over most of the HF bands with a couple of places where it spiked to higher or lower levels. The antenna did not appear to be any quieter /better than my dipole.

P. J. Hicks, N7PH

TAKE NOTE— There are important changes to the Radio Club of Tacoma's meeting place, day and time being proposed and discussed at the March 2018 General Meeting as outlined in the President's Corner. These changes, if implemented, will affect the entire membership. *That means you* ! If you have thoughts you would like to share please attend the general meeting. Your opinion matters and your vote makes a difference. See you on Wednesday night, March 14, 2018.

Recent operations in the **HF** and other radio room areas have been interrupted by unintentional and inadvertent talking. **PLEASE RESPECT YOUR FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS and REFRAIN FROM CHATTER** when the rigs are in use.

New and Modern Additions to the Radio Club of Tacoma's Shack

Moving into the Digital Software Defined Radio Era.

In December of last year the Radio Club of Tacoma aligned itself on a new course toward the modern technology taking over the radio world. The club purchased an Elecraft K3; recognized as one of the best transceivers on the market today. So far the regular club station operators love the K3.

And this month, February 2018, the club has approved the purchase of a warranted, factory refurbished Flexradio 6500. Its technology is SDR, Software Defined Radio. Let's face it, that's where amateur radio is going. Computers have insinuated themselves into every aspect of our lives. Radios are no exception.

Many of you will hate the new systems *initially*. "Where are the knobs"? "How do I operate this thing"? "What's a slice"? "How do I change ..."? "Will it do digital"? But when you sit down and actually operate the new SDR radio a whole new and exciting world will open up for you. Especially you contesters. Search and pounce takes on a whole new and faster meaning with the waterfall and spectrum. The mouse rules!

Slowly and painstakingly tuning up or down the bands? What a pain. Is the band dead or did I just tune over a frequency that was momentarily silent? Enter the SDR. A very large and selectable section of the band with all the signals in the selected bandwidth are visible on the monitor before you. The waterfall shows a history of the signals for the last few minutes. Thirty seconds in the operator's chair and you will recognize the different waterfall and spectrum signal signatures. All the familiar receiver and transmitter controls are displayed on screen; available at the click of the mouse. A mouse click selects whatever control, or level, or frequency you want. Adjustable 'brick wall' filters and magic mathematical wizardry transform the signal information with more precision and better control than the old analog/semi digital radios ever could. Resistors, capacitors and inductors just can't do what math and a computer chip can.

This new transceiver will soon be operational in the club's HF room. *NOTE; the K3 is and has been 'on the air' for several weeks now.* Stop in and make a few contacts, learn some new techniques, join the modern age. That's what amateur radio operators are famous for; being on the leading edge.

I appreciate the older gear as much as anyone. You'll often find me in the museum especially when Rich KR7W or Randy WB4SPB are operating. The Globe Champion's pronounced chirp brought a tear to my eye as I recalled my homebrew novice gear of the late '50s. And while that 'boat anchor' gear is fun to bring out on occasion, you wouldn't want to go back to operating it as your only gear. *Or maybe you would*? Evolution is a given and usually a positive improvement. We, as operators and innovators, should embrace positive change. Try out the new station gear and I think you'll find it enlightening.

PJH, N7PH

A WORD FROM THE ARRL . . .

By Joe Lester, K7ZG

My thanks to the Board of Directors and Dave W7UUU for giving me the appointment to serve as our club's ARRL Liaison. Newer club members probably didn't have a chance to know Jerry Seligman, W7BUN (SK), who passed away in August, 2006. Jerry was a wonderful man who is fondly remembered by those who knew him. A number of us, including our club Parliamentarian Peter Baker, AD7EU, and Pat Wingerter, WT7N, were lucky enough to upgrade to Amateur Extra Class after attending Jerry's 8-week course in South Hill. We gathered together in Jerry's classroom, next to his ham shack and famous workshop. He asked us to rotate the duty of bringing cookies to the meeting, but he preferred we not bring cookies with crumbs. Picking up from where Jerry left off, I shall bring a set of ARRL Library Books and membership information to club meetings and look forward to serving as your liaison between the ARRL and the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Jerry wrote "A Word from the ARRL" in the style of a newspaper reporter and editor. He digested and summarized in the Logger's Bark all of the important events of the previous month, including news gleaned from sources on the ARRL website, and actions to enforce compliance with FCC Part 97 Rules and Regulations, as well as the club's own public filings in response to the FCC rule-making process known as "request for comments." So he did a LOT. I hope it's OK if I lower the bar a tad before I tackle this job. I thank you for your support and invite you to send any questions to me by email 73radio@gmail.com and I will do my best to get back to you with a good answer. And of course you will find up-to-the-minute information on the ARRL website, which is constantly improving, including a members-only area that opens up some additional resources. Our club's affiliation with the ARRL extends back to 1920. In order to retain our status as an ARRL Special Service Club, we need at least 51% ARRL membership. If you'd like to join the ARRL, that would be great. You can do so online on the website www. arrl.org .

No news this month while we get the ball rolling.

Volunteer Instructors

Some of the volunteer instructors who teach members and non-members all they need to pass the FCC initial license and license upgrade exams.

Left: David N7HT

Right: Stephen AD7AB

Thanks guys

The Classic Exchange

By Rich KR7W

WRL Globe Chief w/ Heath VF1 TX + Collins R388 RX ham set on Museum workbench.

On Sunday Jan 21 and Tuesday Jan 23, Museum regulars Randy WB4SPB and Rich KR7W operated three vintage 'ham radio sets' in the Boat Anchor Radio enthusiasts favorite Contest– The Classic Exchange (aka CX). The CX happens twice a year– End of January and September for the CW part… and beginning of February and October for the Phone part. (never on Superbowl weekend). This event is hosted by a small group of hams via their website– **www.classicexchange.org**— and publicized in Electric Radio Magazine (available on magazine rack in Club Library) as well as by the ARRL's info outlets.

The CX CW event sort of snuck up on us this year– the Museum only had a day to invite interested parties. It must have been too short notice as only one person stopped by.

The CX is a radio sport contest– as there is a score– that is computed by number of QSOs made and the age of each piece of equipment used to make the QSOs, plus the bonus points awarded. This years bonus was an extra 1,000 points for using a WRL Globe product.

W7OS used three distinctive sets of transmitter-receivers. 1) Eldico SSB100F TX @ 40W output and Collins 75A4 RX; 2) WRL Globe Chief w/ Heath VF-1 TX @ 60W output and Collins R-388 RX; 3) Harvey-Wells TBS50 w/ Heath VF-1 TX @ 10W output and Hammarlund HQ-120 RX. The youngest equipment used was born in 1957 and the oldest was born in 1938. Equipment ages totaled up to 400 years.

L-R: Collins 75A4 RX, Eldico SSB100F TX, and Randy WB4SPB at the key.

16 QSOs were made on 40 meters using the dipole antenna and 28 QSOs on 20M using Big Yagi on the tower. The furthest away station contacted was in NJ. Closest was WA and one of those was with Bark Editor PJ, N7PH using his very modern Software Defined Radio up against a much less modern vacuum tube TX-RX with a combined age of 122 years.

In order to count the QSO to earn points– the operators must successfully exchange the makes and models of the TX and RX equipment used. This makes the exchange much longer than the usual Field Day like QSO. Receiving all needed information was sometimes challenging with poor band conditions and less stable equipment.

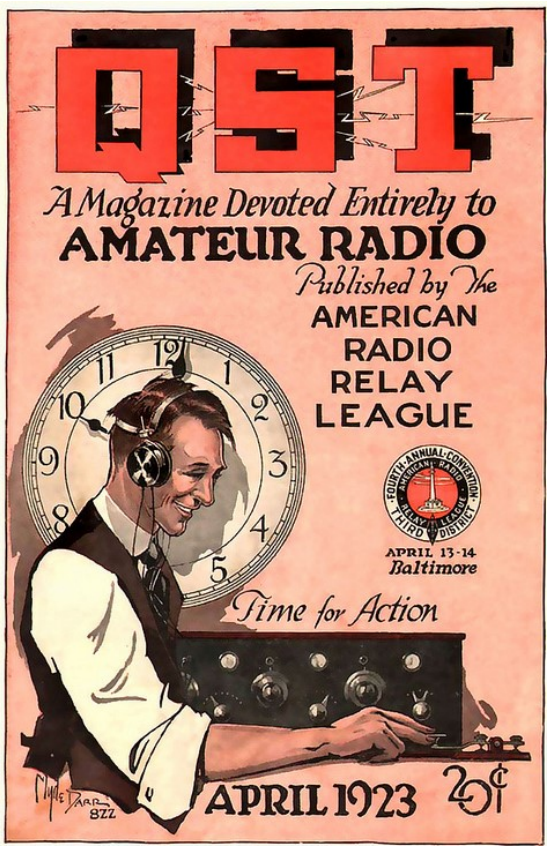
Sunday's operations used two radio sets. The Eldico-75A4 station would initiate the

Rich KR7W uses Globe Chief TX + R388 RX to make 15 QSOs with Jim W8KGI's multitude of Boat Anchor rigs on 40M.

QSO with far away ham. Then after needed info was copied, the W7OS operator would ask the far away ham to stand by for a new rig. During the first QSO the second W7OS operator would tune in the first operators signal and set up the rig on the same frequency. About half of the far away hams participated in this 'tag team' method of operating. On Tuesdays operations- the Harvey-Wells TBS50 and HQ-120 were used exclusively– no tag teaming.

One of the highlights of this CW CX is making contact with Jim W8KGI in NM who has a huge collection of boat anchor radios. On Sunday, W7OS used the Globe Chief TX and R388 RX– to make 15 QSOs with Jim (on 40M)– who switched out different combinations of TXs and RXs. On Tuesday Jim was back on 20M with 5 more TX-RX combinations. Jim copied that W7OS used the Harvey TX + HQ120 RX for these QSOs.

The math for W7OS's score goes like this: 45 QSOs X 400 Years =18,000 + 1,000 WRL-Globe Bonus Points = **19,000 total points**.



L-R: Harvey Wells TBS50 TX on top of Hammarlund HQ120 RX. Green Eyed Heath VF-1 excites the Harvey TX. On top of the Speaker is Harvey's Power Supply. Randy WB4SPB at the Key.

3Y0I Bouvet Island DXpedition Revived

Peripatetic Polish DXpeditioner Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX, and four other operators announced over the weekend that their postponed plans to mount the 3Y0I DXpedition to Bouvet Island are back on. This comes as the 3Y0Z DXpedition team members, who were unsuccessful earlier this month in landing on the remote South Atlantic island, are currently en route to South Africa on their way back home. According to the latest ClubLog DXCC Most-Wanted List, Bouvet is the second most-wanted DXCC entity, behind North Korea.

"Our trip, planned originally at the end of 2017, was canceled at the request of the organizers of the 3Y0Z expedition," an announcement said. "Due to the cancellation by the [3Y0Z] organizers, we are now returning to the implementation of our project and preparations for our trip as a matter of urgency."

DX-World has reported that the 3Y0I license has been renewed and a landing permit -- good for 1 year -- issued by the Norwegian Polar Institute. While no specific dates for the DXpedition have been announced, the 3Y0I team said its plans call for operating during the subantarctic summer, which suggests they could be on the air late this year.

The 3Y0I team said it has chartered a seagoing yacht adapted for extreme weather conditions to make the 12-day, 2,800-nautical mile trip from South Africa to Bouvet Island. The team anticipates operating for about 2 weeks. The participants have financed the trip out of their own pockets.

In addition to 3Z9DX, the 3Y0I operators will include Stanislaw, SQ8X; Leszek, SP3DOI; Branko, YU4DX, and Frans, J69DX. *NOTE: The 3Y0Z DXpedition was cancelled due to bad weather and ship's engine troubles.*

PRESALE ITEMS OFFERED TO MEMBERS BEFORE THE MIKE & KEY HAM FEST

The follow Transceivers have been selected by the Property Management Team for sale at the upcoming Mike & Key Ham Fest. They are offered here to members before the ham fest so that members have first choice to purchase one of these great rigs. Contact Red WB7EC for information or to purchase.

M21. RCT 3311 ICOM HF Transceiver IC-730	$ 250.00
M22. RCT 3288 Kenwood HF Transceiver TS-830S	$ 500.00
M23. RCT 3325 ICOM HF Transceiver IC-737	$ 400.00
M24. RCT 3389 Kenwood HF Transceiver TS-450 S/mic RCT 3395	$ 600.00
M25. RCT 3650 Yaesu HF Transceiver FT-990/SM-8 MIC RCT 3689	$ 600.00
M26. RCT 3721 ICOM HF Transceiver IC-751/mic RCT 3772	$ 550.00

Homebrewer's Projects

The Radio Club of Tacoma has a great number of very talented builders. Building not only all manner of kits but designs from scratch are regularly turned out. They also ply their talents to many other disciplines; woodworking, writing, clubhouse repairs and upkeep, and various electrical and mechanical works.

One such project was completed recently by Dave, W7HTJ. Dave took a QRPLabs transceiver kit called the QCX, cost US$49.00, a 5 watt single band CW transceiver, and after building and testing it, "boxed" it up "Paraset" style to produce an outstanding piece of art. https://www.qrp-labs.com/

MFJ Bulk Order

Last year MFJ Enterprises loaned the club a MFJ-618 Speech-Intelligibility Enhancer. This is part of a "use before you buy" program negotiated with MFJ. The device, MFJ-618, lets you compensate for deficiencies in your hearing. The intelligibility enhancer was setup in the Lou room for club members to work with and see if the device really helped aid in hearing. It got good reviews and the club ordered 8 units for members. MFJ provided the club with a discount

This year we are starting the year off a little bit differently. The club will be putting a bulk order in to MFJ. All items in their catalog are eligible for a discount.

If you are interested please contact me with the item/s you want to order. First I will be sending our order list to MFJ and they will provide the club with a discount for each item. The discount will vary because some items are made in-house and others are not. I will be working with Steve the club's treasurer to collect the money and the club will send MFJ the order.

We will be resuming the use before you buy program with MFJ later in the year.

Thanks

Adam W2NCC

Editor's Note: There is one MFJ-618 ready for member purchase otherwise it will go to the Mike & Key Ham Fest.

This and That

By Steve Dightman, AF7YD

What is ***This and That?*** From time to time I plan to contribute short Loggers Bark articles containing random bits of information and perhaps some editorial and or opinion content I think may be useful to other RCT members. If you have Ideas or suggestions for this column, please let me know. stevedightman@kendra.com

ANNOUNCING: Radio Club of Tacoma now has a Preferred Cash Account at **Tacoma Screw Products**, an industrial supply house. This means RCT members may now purchase directly at the counter of Tacoma Screw Products. You will need to be prepared to pay cash and sales tax. When your counter person asks, just show them your RCT membership card. We have a Tacoma Screw catalog (not available to check out) available for browsing located in the RCT Class Room Library. You can also view their catalog at www.tacomascrew.com. When you shop there, it helps to know exactly or close to what you want. Very little of their stock is on-the-floor available for browsing. However, I find their counter people quite friendly and helpful in fetching samples when I'm not completely sure of the precise part needed and even a bit of brain-storming for solution ideas when I'm stumped. Their Head Quarters and largest stocking location is at 2001 Center St.; Tacoma WA 98409. For a visual, just drive to the huge U.S. Flag--just north of Hwy. 16, Where Hwy 16 meets I5. They may have another location closer to you.

I find TSP a great source for tower hardware and fasteners for my home brew projects like 4-40 brass round head screws and nuts. A much greater selection than any of the Big Box stores. I suggest spending a few minutes browsing their catalog for a better idea of what's available. Hint: If they are busy when shopping there, go to the number dispenser and take a number when you first arrive. By the way**: No Minimum Order**.

Q&A: One member asked is there a pricing advantage over a walk-in cash customer. So I called and asked. Yes there is. It may be only "slight" at first but as the account is evaluated periodically that discount may increase over time.

Note: RCT membership cards are available for pickup at the Club House. Can't get to the club house? Send a SASE to Radio Club of Tacoma, PO Box 1118, Tacoma WA 98411-0188 and ask for your card.

That's ***This and That*** for now. Hope you found this helpful.

From the Editor;

Producing the monthly newsletter becomes more enjoyable and easier as I get more familiar with the software. It only happens however, because of you, the members. Please keep your article contributions, event pictures, thoughts and ideas coming. I want this newsletter to reflect what you want to see and learn as well as entertain you a little. Feel free to pass along your criticisms as well so we can improve.

PJH, N7PH

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1902 PST by President Dave W7UUU.

Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
Board	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA

Quorum? Yes. Ten members signed the attendance roster

Welcome new Officers and Directors
Adam W2NCC was welcomed to his first meeting as a Board member.

Silent Key or Illness? None reported

Approval of Minutes of the December 6, 2017 Board Meeting was accomplished by voice vote

Secretary's Report (W7MWF) Usual Correspondence: Insurance Policies, Memberships, Utilities, Subscriptions

Treasurer's Report (AF7YD) There was no report since Steve had not yet arrived

Committee / Reports

Membership (W7MKE) It was reported that 182 members have renewed thus far for 2018

Library (AD7AV) Doug AD7AV presented his annual report and budget request. A copy of his report is filed with these minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize $500 for the 2018 Library budget.

Training Tech License Training Jan 6/7
General License Training Jan 22 through Mar 26
VE Testing Jan 9

Info Tech (WB4SPB) All systems reported as being operational

HF Operations (K7PIA) Phil reported that an upgraded power supply had been installed for the rotor. He also advised of upcoming HF events that might interest club members.

Repeater Ops It was noted that the audio on the .28 repeater is improved. Steve AF7YD gave an overview of potential problems that can interfere with repeater operation

Facilities Mgmt (WE7P) Bruce reported that there is still a shortage of fill dirt to complete the sewer backfill. Also, a new faucet was installed for the kitchen sink.

Property Mgmt (WB7EC) Red gave a report of the property management sales revenue for 2017. A copy of his report is filed with these minutes.

Museum Randy WB4SPB noted that in addition to new shelving, the museum will now be developing a dynamic display of equipment for viewing and operating.

Weds Workshop Topic TBA

General Meeting Because of the change of venue, time crunch and lack of audio/visual equipment there will be no formal program presentation for the January General Meeting.

Unfinished Business

Mike provided a Century Club Subscription Report and advised of his intent to acquire a plaque for clubhouse and suitable certificates for donors. 23 members donated $2500.00 to be earmarked for historical and archival undertakings. A copy of the donor list is filed with these minutes.

Updates on acquisition of AED device – Bob K7MXE's letter to the board was distributed. A copy of the letter is filed with these minutes

Adam W2NCC gave an update on his negotiations with MFJ to establish a bulk purchase program for club members. A motion was made, seconded and carried by show of hands to endorse Adam's proposal and to support it by permitting funds to be passed through the RCT treasurer.

New Business

Payment by the Treasurer of regular and recurring expenses was authorized by voice vote.

Presidential Appointments were made by Dave W7UUU

Parliamentarian	Peter Baker AD7EU
Newsletter Editor	PJ Hicks N7PH
Website Admin	Randy Myers WB4SPB
Club Historian	Doug Oakman AD7AV
Training Coordinator	Stephen Morton AD7AB
Museum Curator	Richard Patrick KR7W

Other New Business

Appointment of committee chairs

George Salisbury K7GRS was appointed membership chair. Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE was appointed assistant. Other committee appointments will be forthcoming.

The Jan 10 General Meeting will be held at Eagles Club, 4810 S Tacoma Way

The Board was notified that we will need to identify a facility for future General Meetings since the Pierce County Library Building will not be available after March 2018. Some discussion was held on the possibility of having monthly General Meetings occur during daylight hours on weekends to enable members to attend who do not or cannot drive at night. Action was tabled pending further research into the issue and possible solutions.

Dave W7UUU reported that he has reserve facility for 2018 Awards Banquet - Eagles Club on S 72nd and Pine for $250 all day. It was determined by the Board by voice vote that the 2018 and future holiday banquets be scheduled for the first weekend of each December. Specific day to be determined after straw polling of membership.

Activity Reports and Discussion Topics

Straight Key Night Randy gave a report on the success of the Straight Key Night.

FYBO Currently there areno plans to hold FYBO event this year. A Hidden Transmitter Hunt may be scheduled in the Spring.

Club Discounts Steve AF7YD is going to look into a mechanism that might enable club members to get jobber/contractor rates at several local merchants. He will report back in the future

Adjournment was at 2015 PST

Radio Club of Tacoma
General Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1923 PST by President Dave W7UUU at the **Tacoma Eagles Aerie #3, 4810 South Tacoma Way**

Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

Pledge of Allegiance led by Randy WB4SPB

Welcome and Self-Introductions

Guests present were Troyce KG7RZG, and Rich and Jenn Fogle

New Calls none reported

Self-introductions were completed. 36 individuals signed the attendance roster, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Health and Welfare

Silent Keys and Illness

Secretary's Report Mike W7MWF announced receipt of the usual stuff: periodicals, utility bills, bank statements. Membership renewals; Liability and Equipment Insurance have been renewed, and the invoice has been received for renewal of the Property insurance policy

Treasurer's Report Steve AF7YD announced that all current bills have been paid and that we have money in the bank.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership Mike W7MKE reported that so far 215 renewals have been posted. He reminded all to get their dues in promptly.

Training Technician Class was held January 6/7. Next class is scheduled for February 10/11
General Class Training (N7HT) will be held Jan 22 through March 26 (10 sessions)

VE Report John AC7WW provided the report of the testing session held on January 9. A copy of Johns report is filed with these minutes. The next VE Session will be held February 13

HF Operations Phil reported that the K3 transceiver is working well and that the power supply for the rotor has been upgraded. Members were invited to see Phil for training on both pieces of gear.

Repeater Ops It was noted that the audio on 147.28 repeater has improved significantly. Thanks were expressed to Time K7TMW and Rich KR7W for their efforts.

IT Report Randy reported that everything is working within normal expected parameters. There was discussion about the end of life for the computers purchased in 2012. All gear seems to still be functioning and at present any upgrades will be delayed until necessary.

Museum Richard KR7W advised that the museum has installed new shelving and hosted Straight Key Night on New Year-s Eve. Plans are to have dynamic equipment displays beginning soon, with equipment being rotated periodically. Rich also encouraged periodic clean-up and housekeeping sessions inside the clubhouse.

Facilities Mgmt Bruce WE7P reported installation of a new faucet in the kitchen and a new filter. Water is still encroaching into the basement.

Prop Mgmt Red WB7EC updated us on Sales and donations. Prep for Mike and Key Flea Market is underway. Red was given a round of applause for his stellar efforts in property management.

4th Weds Activity Night - TBD.

New Business

A new facility needs to be identified for General Meetings. March will be the last month that the library is available. Dave W7UUU and Anne N7ANN are scouting out locations.

Adam W2NCC gave an overview of his efforts to obtain bulk order discounts from MFJ. He will be moving forward and keep us updated.

The membership was solicited for a chairperson to coordinate the 2018 Field Day. Adam W2NCC graciously volunteered to again be the overseer. It was determined that the State Hospital grounds would be the most suitable location for this year, and Adam will coordinate with Bob AD7LJ.

Unfinished Business and Announcements

Straight Key Night Randy WB4SPB reported that the Doc Spike Memorial Museum W7OS hosted the annual Straight Key Night event on New Year's 'Eveternoon'. 16 QSOs were made by 7 operators. Food was good and the QLF demo and Morse Code Bingo were fun. Gratitude was expressed to Mike W7MKE for designing and producing the commemorative patch for the event.

W7DK Century Club Mike W7MWF reported that the subscription period for membership in the Century Club has expired. 25 members joined and contributed $2700 to be earmarked for future historical and archival preservation projects.

Time Capsule Adam W2NCC reminded us that the window for contributing items to be enshrined in the time capsules has expired. He is still awaiting a couple of items, then will seal the capsules and mount in a suitable location in the clubhouse.

Mike W7MWF asked for volunteers to host the Info Booth upstairs at the Mike and Key event to be held Saturday, March 10.

Dave W7UUU informed the group that the 2018 Holiday/Awards banquet will be held on the first weekend of December, 2018 at the Eagles Club 7037 South Pine St (corner of 72nd and Pine). A straw poll was conducted to determine preference of Saturday/Sunday and other comments. The choice of days was about evenly split. Because of the potential for other conflicts on Saturdays, it was decided to continue having our luncheon on Sunday afternoons.

President Dave reported that at the Board of Directors Meeting on January 3, he had made multiple appointments in compliance with the RCT Bylaws Section 7(C):

Parliamentarian	Peter Baker AD7EU
Newsletter Editor	PJ Hicks N7PH
Website Administrator	Randy Myers WB4SPB
Club Historian	Doug Oakman AD7AV
Education Coordinator	Stephen Morton AD7AB
Museum Curator	Richard Patrick KR7W

Dave has also appointed George Salisbury KG7GRS as Membership Chairman and Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE as Assistant Chairman. Appointments to other committees will be forthcoming.

Program

Due to time constraints and lack of audio visual equipment at the alternate facility, there was no formal presentation tonight. In light of the loss of the library facility and other factors, there was a discussion and dialog regarding holding the monthly General Meeting on a Saturday afternoon instead of Wednesday nights. The proposal appeared to be well-received and further research will be done.

Follow up discussions

Kerry KI7LTV expressed his appreciation for the hard work by Larry KD4VOM for maintaining the W7DK Facebook page.

The membership was advised that copies of the minutes are published in The Bark and are also available on the server and are accessible for viewing with the club computers.

Randy WB4SPB informed us of the numerous and contentious issues facing the ARRL Board of Directors at their upcoming meeting on January 19th. Members were encouraged to research and respond or communicate with Northwest Director Jim Pace if they wish.

Door Prize The door prize (coffee cup) was won by Jim K7SSS

Raffle Prize The raffle prize, a tri-band transceiver, was won by Mike W7XTZ. Mike subsequently donated the radio to the VE Program to be awarded at their discretion to a deserving licensee.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 2035 PST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Finnie W7MWF
Secretary

The Club LINEUP

Club Officers

President: Dave Ellison, W7UUU - w7uuu@w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis, W7XTZ - w7xtz@w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Finnie, W7MWF - w7mwf@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd@w7dk.org

5 Board Members

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p@w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu@w7dk.org

Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc@w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec@w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia@w7dk.org

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $35 per calendar year. $30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia @ 1500 ft ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3